

NOVELLO'S ORIGINAL OCTAVO EDITION.

THE SOUL'S RANSOM

A PSALM OF THE POOR

(SINFONIA SACRA)

FOR SOPRANO AND BASS SOLI, CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA

BY

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THE SOUL'S RANSOM.

INTRODUCTION.—*Lento.*

CHORUS.

Who can number the sands of the sea, the drops of rain, and the days of eternity ?
Who can find out the height of heaven, the breadth of the earth, and the deep, and wisdom ?
Wisdom hath been created before all things, and the understanding of prudence from everlasting.
The word of the Lord most High is the fountain of wisdom, and her ways are everlasting commandments.
If thou desire wisdom, keep the commandments, and the Lord shall give her unto thee.

BASS SOLO.

Hear ye this, O ye people ; give ear all ye inhabitants of the world !
My mouth shall speak of wisdom ; My heart shall muse of understanding.
I will incline mine ear to a parable ; I will open my dark saying upon the harp.
They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches ; none of them can redeem his brother, nor make agreement unto God for him ;
That he should live alway and not see corruption.
The fool and brutish shall perish together, and leave their wealth for others.
He shall carry nothing away with him when he dieth, neither shall his pomp follow him.
Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish.

CHORUS.

We look for light, but behold darkness ; for brightness, but behold obscurity.
We grope for the wall like the blind, yea we grope as they that have no eyes.
We stumble at noon-day as in the twilight, among those that are lusty we are as dead men.

SOPRANO SOLO—AND CHORUS.

SOLO.

Why are ye so fearful, O ye of little faith ?
Blessed are ye poor, for yours is the kingdom of heaven.

CHORUS.

It is the spirit that quickeneth, the flesh profiteth nothing.

SOLO.

Blessed are ye that hunger, for ye shall be filled.

CHORUS.

Man liveth not by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

SOLO.

Blessed are ye, when men revile you and persecute you, for great is your reward in heaven .

CHORUS.

It is the spirit that beareth witness because the spirit is truth.

God is a spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

BASS SOLO AND CHORUS.

BASS SOLO.

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and set me down in a valley that was full of bones,
And he said to me—

CHORUS.

Son of man, can these bones live ?

BASS SOLO.

And I answered, O Lord God Thou knowest.

Again He said unto me—

CHORUS.

Prophecy unto these bones, and say, Hear the word of the Lord !

Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live.

And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and put breath in you, and ye shall live.

BASS SOLO.

So I prophesied as I was commanded : and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking,

And the bones came together, bone to his bone, and the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them ; but there was no breath in them.

Then said he unto me—

CHORUS.

Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind,

Thus saith the Lord God : Come from the four winds, O breath,

Come, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live !

BASS SOLO.

So I prophesied as I was commanded, and the breath came into them, and they stood on their feet, an exceeding great army.

Then said he unto me—

CHORUS.

Son of man, these are the bones of the whole house of Israel ;
Behold say they, Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, we are cut off.
Therefore prophesy and say to them,
Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and will bring you to the land which I
promised to your fathers ;
I will put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, for I the Lord have spoken it.

SOPRANO SOLO.

The people that walked in darkness, have seen a great light: and they that dwell in the
shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.
They shall not hunger nor thirst any more, nor shall the heat of the sun smite them :
For he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, by the waters of comfort shall he
guide them.
Sing, O heavens, and be joyful O earth, break forth into singing O mountains !
The Lord hath comforted his people, and hath compassion upon his afflicted.

CHORUS.

See now, ye that love the light,
Ye shall not in darkness stray.
See now, ye that look for the right,
Ye shall not faint by the way.
Truth will not die,
In every soul of man it lives ;
The Spirit cannot lie !
To each and all the choice it gives
To rate the tempting world aright
And to esteem it light ;
To ward the ransomed soul from stain,
And make it worthy to attain
To flawless harmony, divinely pure,
With that which was, and is, and shall for evermore endure.

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